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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

SESSION 1858-9.

Thirteenth Meeting, June 13th, 1859.

THE EARL OF RIPON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Captain Richard F. Burton (Bombay Army); Lieutenant-General Peter De la Motte, C.B.; Professor Hind (of Canada); Captain W. Fraser Tytler; John F. Bateman, C.E.; A. Benson Dickson; Christian Hellmann; Henry Johnson; Coleridge J. Kennard; Daniel A. Lange; Walter D. Leslie; F. Butler Montgomerie; W. Moon; Stephen W. Silver; and Edward W. Stafford, Esqrs.; were elected Fellows.*

EXHIBITIONS.—Specimens of the weapons, manufactures, and natural productions brought by Captains Burton and Speke from Eastern Africa, and of woods from the Zambesi brought home by J. Lyons M'Leod, Esq., F.R.G.S., late Consul at Mozambique; also several maps of the seat of war in Italy, &c., were exhibited.

The PRESIDENT.—Ladies and Gentlemen: I understand that it is not the custom on these occasions to offer any general observations, except such as may be connected with the Papers immediately in hand, otherwise I should have felt it my duty to express my thanks to you at greater length than I shall now do, because I am most anxious to preserve intact the ancient practices of this Society. I should have felt it my duty to express my warmest thanks to the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society for placing me in this Chair. But I apprehend a more fitting opportunity for so doing will be afforded me on a future occasion, of which I shall most gladly avail myself. It will, therefore, be hardly necessary that I should detain you a minute from listening to the Papers which will be read on that most interesting expedition, the exploration of Central Africa, by Captains Burton and Speke. Their steps during that arduous undertaking have been watched with interest by every person in this country attached to geographical science, and every Fellow of this Society is aware of the importance of the inquiries which they went out to institute. What we shall hear from them will give us an idea of the difficulties, disasters, and privations they endured, and I think we shall be able to draw from their narratives—though they will not dwell on it themselves—with how much spirit, courage, English pluck, and enterprise, they overcame those difficulties. Captain Speke, who penetrated in a different direction somewhat farther than Captain Burton, who was prevented by illness from following him, is decidedly of opinion that he has established the point whence the Nile takes its rise.

You will hear what he has to say on this subject, and no doubt there will be some discussion upon it afterwards; but I feel quite convinced that whatever differences of opinion may arise on that particular point, though I think the arguments which Captain Speke adduces are of very great weight and importance, every one who hears the accounts to-night will feel that most valuable and important information has been obtained—information not only important in a geographical point of view, but valuable also as having no small bearing on commercial and industrial questions. I think we should never lose sight of the importance which the labours of this Society possess in respect of the industry, manufactures, and commerce of this country. I will not detain you any longer from the extremely interesting narrative of Captain Burton, who will now proceed to read his Paper.

The Papers read were—

Explorations in Eastern Africa. By CAPTAINS R. F. BURTON, F.R.G.S., and J. H. SPEKE, F.R.G.S.

1. CAPTAIN BURTON, late Commandant of the East African Expedition, read out a general account of his proceedings subsequent to the tentative journey to Fuga and Usumbara, which appeared in the 28th Vol. of the Journal of the Society.

The Paper contained a description of the personnel of the East African Expedition when leaving the coast for the purpose of exploring the “Sea of Ujiji.” The difficulties of departure and the severe trials of patience on the road were then dwelt upon. At length, however, the travellers reached Unyanyembe, the capital of the “Land of the Moon,” and experienced from the kindhearted Arabs the warmest welcome, for which, however, they were not a little indebted to the introductory firman furnished by H.H. Sayyid Majid, Sultan of Zanzibar and the Sawahil. Captain Burton then briefly described the trying and dangerous march during the rainy monsoon from Unyanyembe to Ujiji upon the Tanganyika Lake, and his exploration in company with Captain Speke of the northern waters of that sweet sea, which saw for the first time the union jack floating over its dark bosom. Want of supplies prevented the travellers penetrating farther into the interior, and concluding the Periplus of the Lake; they reluctantly bade adieu to Ujiji, and on the 19th of June, 1858, re-entered Unyanyembe.

After about six weeks, during which Captain Speke, having traversed the unexplored length of Usukuma, laid down the southern limit of the Nyanza or Ukerewe Lake, which had been heard of from the Arabs of Unyanyembe, the expedition marched eastward, intending to make the coast *viâ* Kilwa. Again, however, they were doomed to disappointment. The African Pagazi, or porters, could not be persuaded to deviate from their normal line. The explorers